GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1061
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to explore the problems in Non-Timber Forest Produce Sector (NTFP) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need to introduce Minimum Support Price for NTFPs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTRY OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)to (e) The Ministry of Environment & forests has not undertaken any study to explore the problems in the Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) in the country. However, the NTFPs provide sustenance to forest dependent communities including tribals and the State Forests Departments, Forest Development Corporations/ MFP Federations and Cooperatives are working in various States for collection, processing and value addition and marketing contributing to the income and livelihood of local people and towards sustainable management of NTFPs in various States of the country.

The problems encountered in the proper development of NTFP Sector include unsustainable harvesting, poor regeneration, inadequate NTFP baseline data and mapping, wide fluctuation in demand supply scenario, largely operated in unorganized Sector especially in respect of non-nationalized NTFPs, inadequate storage and processing infrastructure, inadequate capacity and knowledge in NTFP management, inadequate research & development support etc.

However, the Dr. T. Haque Committee, constituted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj has carried out detailed study of the NTFP Sector and has proposed for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for NTFPs for providing remunerative price to primary collectors including focus on regeneration, sustainable management, value addition and skill development for holistic development of NTFP Sector.

The Government of India has recently approved the Scheme of 'Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain of MFP'. Initially the Scheme will cover 12 items namely (i) Tendu (ii) Bamboo (iii) Mahuwa Seed (iv) Sal Leaf (v) Sal Seed (vi) Lac (vii) Chironjee (viii) Wild Honey (ix) Myrobalan (x) Tamarind (xi) Gums (Gum Karaya) (xii) Karanj. The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.